birželio 25 dieną sukanka dveji metai Lietuvos nacionalinei valiutai - litui. Ta proga surengtoje spaudos konferencijoje Lietuvos banko valdybos pirmininkas Kazys Ratkevičius teigė, jog per tuos metus litas nesusilpnėjo ir išliko stabilus. "Daugiausia diskusijų sukėlęs Lito patikimumo įstatymas veikia ir jo rezultatai neblogi - lito santykis su JAV doleriu yra stabilus, tvirtas ir pakankamai pagrįstas, todėl artimiausiu metu šio kurso keisti neketinama", - sakė K.Ratkevičius./V.P./

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IN THIS EDITION:
- AID PACKAGE AGREEMENT NEARS; GERMAN-BRITISH RIFT OVER EU
- ESTONIAN PARLIAMENT TO CONVENE FOR SUMMER SESSIONS
- ESTONIA, FINLAND TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON EMERGENCY COOPERATION AND AID

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AID PACKAGE AGREEMENT NEARS; GERMAN-BRITISH RIFT OVER EU

CANNES, Jun 26, (AP) _ Eropean Union leaders open a summit Monday which they hope will erase some festering national differences and end a bitter dispute over its foreign aid budget.

Kicking off with a discussion of a newly-launched overhaul of EU rules, the leaders will debate how much national power to give to the world's largest trading bloc.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is expected to lobby to do away with governments' right to veto decisions made by a majority of member states. That is something Britain can't swallow.

The leaders will also be looking at how to relaunch their economies, notably with a series of public works projects aimed at putting millions to work across the continent and Britain.

EU states have so far been unsuccessful in cutting their high unemployment rates, which average 11 percent.

Some are skeptical that Monday's summit will change that.

''They've been talking for years about what they can do about employment but nothing very much is coming out of it,'' EU Competition Commissioner Karel van Miert told Associated Press Television on Sunday.

''Europe is in bad shape,'' he said. ''Everyone is looking in the first instance at what's happening in his own country. And too bad if political necessities in his own country are running against the common interests of the EU.''

Complicating the two-day meeting in this Mediterranean resort is British Prime Minister John Major's fight for his political skin in a battle with ''Euro-skeptics'' at home, opposed to closer integration into the 15-nation EU.

Major faces a July 4 contest over his leadership of Britain's ruling Conservative Party.

Major will be asked at the summit here to endorse the idea that law enforcement disputes involving British citizens on the continent be settled by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

For the Euro-skeptics, this is like waving a red rag to a bull.

The issue of the Luxembourg court's jurisdiction stems from efforts to create Europol, an EU-wide police coordination center to help fight drug trafficking, money laundering and organized crime operating EU-wide. Europol is a key element in the drive to create a borderless Europe.

Major's Tory opponents insist that London not relax national control over issues such as immigration, crime-fighting, social affairs, defense and foreign policy matters.